AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The present listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the subject patent application.

Claim 1 (currently amended): A storage system with multiple disk drives comprising:

a rectangular prismatic enclosure with six substantially planar sides having at least two largest sides and a primary access side and an input/output side, said primary access side not being one of said at least two largest sides and said input/output side being opposite of and substantially parallel to said primary access side;

a single ~~back-plane~~ backplane oriented substantially parallel to said at least one of said two largest sides of said enclosure, said single ~~back-plane~~ backplane having a plurality of disk drive interface connectors and at least one interface connector;

a plurality of disk drives having an elongated rectangular prismatic shape comprising two large faces and two small faces, one of said two large faces oriented perpendicularly to said single backplane, each of said disk drives electrically connected to said disk drive interface connectors of said single backplane; and

said single ~~back-plane~~ backplane with said plurality of disk drives slidingly engaged into said enclosure and adapted to be removed from said enclosure through said access side as a single unit.

Claim 2 (original): The storage system of claim 1 further comprising: an interface mechanism engaged to said interface connector and capable of transferring signals from said interface connector to at least one input/output connector accessible from said input/output side.

Claim 3 (original): The storage system of claim 1 further comprising: at least one fan capable of causing air to flow substantially from said primary access side to said input/output side.

Claim 4 (original): The storage system of claim 1 further comprising: at least one fan capable of causing air to flow substantially from said input/output side to primary access side.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The storage system of claim 1 further comprising: at least one fan capable of causing air to flow substantially from the primary access side into said enclosure.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The storage system of claim 1 wherein said disk drive further comprises a connector on said one of said two small faces, said connector being engaged into one of said disk drive interface connectors of said single backplane.

Claim 7 (original): The storage system of claim 1 wherein said disk drive further comprises a mounting frame.

Claim 8 (original): The storage system of claim 1 wherein said disk drives are 2.5 inch form factor disk drives.

Claim 9 (original): The storage system of claim 1 wherein said disk drives are 3.5 inch form factor disk drives.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The storage system of claim 1 further comprising: a frame onto which are mounted said single backplane and said plurality of drives, said frame adapted to slidingly insert into said enclosure from said access side; and wherein said single unit comprises said single backplane, said plurality of disk drives, and said frame.

Claim 11 (original): The storage system of claim 1 wherein said enclosure is a rack mountable enclosure.

Claim 12 (original): The storage system of claim 1 wherein said enclosure is a free standing enclosure.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The storage system of claim 1 wherein said disk drives are oriented such that one of said small faces is substantially parallel to said single backplane.

Claim 14 (canceled)

Claim 15 (currently amended): A method for constructing a storage system with multiple disk drives comprising:

providing a rectangular prismatic enclosure with six substantially planar sides having at least two largest sides, a primary access side, and an input/output side, said primary access side not being one of said at least two largest sides and said input/output side being opposite of and substantially parallel to said primary access side;

providing a plurality of disk drives having an elongated rectangular prismatic shape comprising two large faces and two small faces, one of said two small faces oriented parallel to said single backplane;

providing a single ~~back-plane~~ backplane oriented substantially parallel to one of the at least two largest sides of said enclosure, said single ~~back plane~~ backplane having a plurality of disk drive interface connectors and at least one interface connector; said single ~~back-plane~~ backplane with said plurality of disk drives adapted to be slidingly engaged into said enclosure and adapted to be removed from said enclosure through said access side as a single unit;

electrically connecting said plurality of disk drives to said disk drive interface connectors of said single backplane; and

sliding said single backplane and said plurality of disk drives into said enclosure through said access side.

Claim 16 (original): The method of claim 15 further comprising: providing an interface mechanism engagable to said interface connector and capable of transferring signals from said interface connector to at least one input/output connector accessible from said input/output side; and installing said interface mechanism into said enclosure such that said at least one input/output connector is accessible from said input/output side.

Claim 17 (original): The method of claim 15 further comprising: providing at least one fan; and installing said at least one fan such that air is caused to flow substantially from said primary access side to said input/output side when said fan is operable.

Claim 18 (original): The method of claim 15 further comprising: providing at least one fan; and installing said at least one fan such that air is caused to flow

substantially from said input/output side to primary access side when said fan is operable.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The method of claim 15 further comprising: providing at least one fan; and installing said at least one fan such that air is caused to flow substantially from the primary access side into the enclosure when the fan is operable.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The method of claim 15 wherein said disk drive further comprises a connector on said one of said two small faces, said connector being engagable into one of said disk drive interface connectors of said single backplane.

Claim 21 (original): The method of claim 15 wherein said disk drive further comprises a mounting frame.

Claim 22 (original): The method of claim 15 wherein said disk drives are 2.5 inch form factor disk drives.

Claim 23 (original): The method of claim 15 wherein said disk drives are 1 inch form factor disk drives.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The method of claim 15 further comprising: providing a frame adapted to mount said single backplane and said plurality of drives, said frame adapted to slidingly insert into said enclosure from said access side; and installing said single backplane to said frame.

Claim 25 (original): The method of claim 15 wherein said enclosure is a rack mountable enclosure.

Claim 26 (original): The method of claim 15 wherein said enclosure is a free standing enclosure.

Claim 27 (canceled)

Claim 28 (currently amended): The method of claim 15 wherein said plurality of disk drives ~~are~~ is oriented such that one of said ~~small~~ large faces is substantially perpendicular to said single backplane.